



Governor's E-Newsletter

December 17-23, 2005



Aloha and Welcome from the Governor's Office in Hawai'i!

It is with pleasure that we send you this e-newsletter.

Quote of the Week

"It's the right thing to do and it's the right time to do it."

- Governor Lingle, sharing the importance of her Administration's proposed \$300 million in tax relief for Hawai'i residents.

Thought of the Week

"...in Hawai'i when you think leader, you think Lingle."

- Excerpt from from Sunday, December 18 Honolulu Star-Bulletin column.



"On behalf of the Hanapepe Library and Friends of the Hanapepe Library, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for releasing \$352,000 in design funds for Hanapepe Library's expansion...Your release of funds for this project will enable us to provide so much more to this Westside Community that we love."

- Karen Ikemoto, Librarian, thanking Governor Lingle for releasing funds that will allow



From our 'ohana to yours...
Mele Kalikimaka!

Governor Lingle Highlights Budget Plan; \$300 Million in Tax Relief



Governor Lingle submitted to the State Legislature a Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07) Supplemental Budget and Financial Plan that includes \$260 million in new education funding for public schools and the University of Hawai'i, \$300 million in tax relief, and an additional \$926.6 million for new capital improvements, half of which is targeted to upgrade harbors, airports and highways. View the Governor's news conference [here](#). [full story](#)

Photo: Governor Lingle discusses the FY07 budget with members of her Cabinet present. Foreground: Director of Budget and Finance Georgina Kawamura (left) and Deputy Director Stan Shiraki. Front row, from right to left: State Comptroller Russ Saito; Attorney General Mark Bennett; Chair, Department of Agriculture, Sandra Lee Kunimoto; and the Adjutant General, Major General Robert Lee.

the community to begin planning the expansion of Hanapepe library.

Upcoming Events

December 25, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 25, HAPPY CHANUKAH! BEGINS AT SUNDOWN.

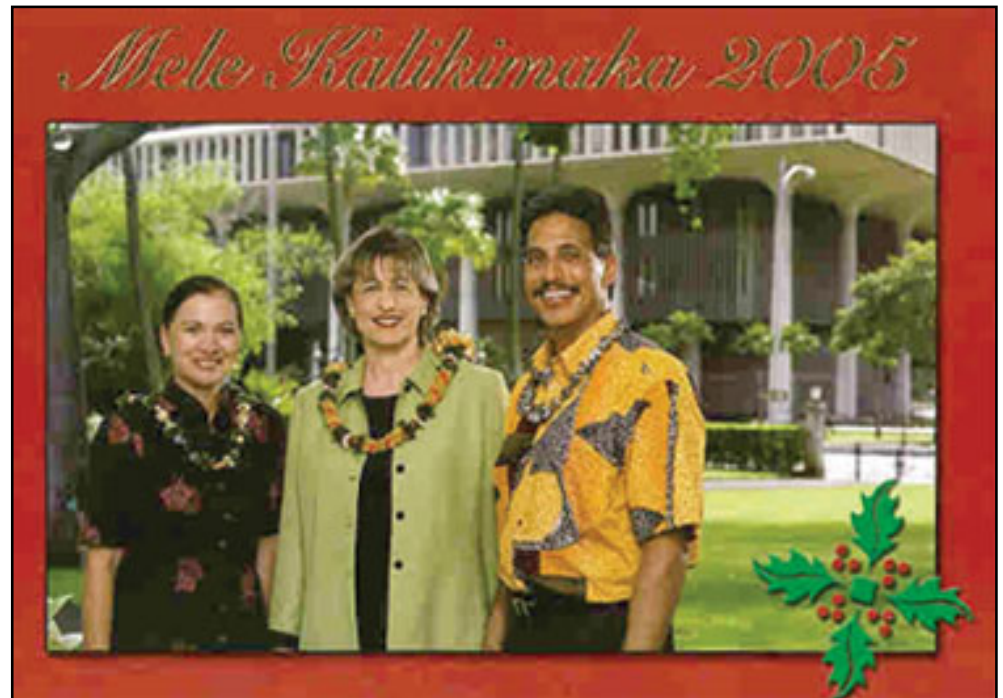
December 25, Governor Lingle will join Rabbi Itchel Krasnjansky, director of Chabad of Hawai`i in a menorah lighting ceremony to celebrate the start of Chanukah.

January 2-10, Governor Lingle, the honorary chair of the Hawai`i Filipino Centennial Celebration, will lead a delegation to the Philippines to mark the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Filipinos in Hawai`i.

Governor's Weekly Radio Show

The show can be heard live from 7:05-8:00 a.m. Wednesdays on www.hawaii.gov/gov or on the following radio stations:
O`ahu (KHVH AM 830)
Maui/Kona (KAOI 1110 AM)
Hilo (KPUA 670 AM)
Kaua`i (KONG 570 AM)

Holiday Messages from Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona...



Amidst the frantic hustle and bustle of this time of year, we want to take this opportunity to wish all Hawai`i residents and visitors a safe and joyous holiday season. This time of year brings out the best in all of us as we celebrate with family, friends, and business associates and reflect on the year that has just gone by while looking forward to the possibilities that lie ahead. Photo from left: Mrs. Aiona, Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona.



Please click [here](#) to read a **Christmas message**.

Please click [here](#) to read a **Chanukah message**.

Economic Momentum Commission Presents Final Report to Governor Lingle



The Economic Momentum



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Commission (EMC) presented its final report, containing recommendations aimed at sustaining Hawai`i's current economic momentum

over the longer term to Governor Lingle, who convened the Commission this summer. The recommendations cover 11 areas: housing, taxation, education, workforce development, tourism, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, health care, the environment and Native Hawaiian issues. [full story](#) For more information, please visit the [EMC website](#). Photo: Governor Lingle thanked members of the Economic Momentum Commission, led by Chairman Don Horner, for their work to perpetuate the state's strong economy.

Governor Honors Filipino Communities in East Hawai`i, Maui



Governor Lingle, the honorary chair of the Hawai`i Filipino Centennial Commission Celebration, joined the East Hawai`i and Maui Filipino Communities as they kicked off celebrations to mark

the centennial of the arrival of the Filipinos in Hawai`i. The Governor emphasized how far the Filipino Community has progressed in 100 years, and produced many professional attorneys, dentists, doctors, judges, and even the Governor of the State of Hawai`i. While in Hilo, the Governor assisted in the unveiling of a statue (shown in photo) depicting a sakada, a migrant Filipino sugar plantation worker. In January, Governor Lingle will lead a delegation to the Philippines for a 10-day mission to promote business, education and cultural opportunities. Photos from East Hawai`i and Maui Centennial Celebrations.

Governor Addresses Hawai`i Restaurant Association



Governor Lingle delivered keynote remarks at the Hawai'i Restaurant Association's Annual Public Affairs Luncheon and discussed key areas her Administration will focus on in the upcoming legislative

session to benefit the restaurant industry. These include increasing the tip wage credit, lowering the unemployment insurance tax for Hawai'i businesses, and worker's compensation reform.

Governor Thanks Foster Families



Governor Lingle and Director of Human Services Lillian Koller attended the Foster Family Programs of Hawai'i annual Holiday Party and thanked Hawai'i families who generously serve as foster families throughout the year. This event, a

collaboration with the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Branch and the Rotary Club of Honolulu, was supported by over 500 volunteers and donors. The Governor met personally with foster families, including the Wheeler family (photo showing Governor seated), and Evelyn and Franklin Souza, who currently have 13 foster children and

have been foster parents for 15 years (photo with the family on a staircase). Over the years, the Souzas have taken in a total of 63 children. Governor Lingle thanked the Souzas for setting a positive example, which has led their daughter and nieces to also open their home as foster parents.

Governor Lingle Helps Hawai'i's Needy Families



Governor Lingle participated in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Bell Ringing to raise funds to help Hawai'i families in need during the holidays. She was joined by volunteers from Antioch Baptist Church.

Governor Welcomes Swimmers to Championship



Governor Lingle, who swims four days per week, 3,000 yards per swim, attended the 2005 Hawaiian Age Group Short Course State Swimming Championships. The event is co-hosted by the Maui Age Group

Swimming Association, the County of Maui and the USA-Swimming local swim committee. The Maui Age Group Swimming Association thanked the Governor for her instrumental role in the development of the Kihei Aquatic center when she was Mayor of Maui.

Governor's Weekly Radio Address



This week presented by the Adjutant General, Major General Robert Lee:



"This Christmas is special for many of Hawai`i's National Guard and Reserve troops who are back home with their families after a 12-month deployment to the Middle East. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to these dedicated citizen soldiers, and all our men and women in uniform, for the tremendous sacrifices they make to secure democracy and peace for the people of Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world. During this holiday season, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our National Guard and Reserve troops who are still on deployment, and we eagerly anticipate their safe return home early next year. I want to also thank the people of Hawai`i for the support and aloha they have shown to our troops throughout the year through Operation Uplift. On behalf of Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona, I wish our troops and their families, and our entire Hawai`i `ohana a safe, joyous and peaceful holiday season."

"Dedicated to Hawai`i's Troops"



Photos courtesy of SSG Kevin Tran

Troops stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan, including Ft. Shafter's 820th Signal Company, were treated to a television taping for the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment). The show was broadcast December 19.

We invite you to submit digital photos of your loved ones who are serving our country in the defense of freedom and liberty. Please e-mail your photos and a brief caption to

Department of the Week- Budget and Finance



Georgina Kawamura, Director of the Department of Budget and Finance (left); Stan Shiraki, Deputy Director (third from left); Neal Miyahira; Jeff Tsuda; Ed Rogoff; Adele Muronaga; Keith Shimada; Kim Chang; Lynette Fukunaga; Huong Bassford; Sharon Kotaka; Jim Bayley; Susan Inouye; Shirl Fujihara; Ryan Odo; Kalei Kini; Jerry Kunishima; Dave Moore; Emily Gaoat; and Naomi Wasano.

The Department of Budget and Finance this week released the Lingle-Aiona Administration's FY07 supplemental budget. The Department also developed a *Budget in Brief*, a simplified version of the budget, which presents the information in a concise, easy-to-understand format. To view the *Budget in Brief*, please click [here](#).

In the News

Gov. Lingle wants to give taxpayers a \$300M refund

A more-than-expected economic forecast leaves room for heavy spending on health and schools

By S.J. Rouse

With a state budget surplus expected to top \$100 million at the end of the current fiscal year, Gov. Linda Lingle is preparing to return more than half of it to taxpayers.

In her supplemental budget proposal for the coming year, unveiled yesterday, Lingle set aside \$300 million for some form of tax refund.

It is based on the state Council on Economic Forecasting from September for predicting that revenues for the fiscal year that ends June 30 would be up 5 percent from the previous year. However, at the end of last month, the council predicted an 8 percent increase, meaning the state's surplus could be higher than the \$100 million projected by the single administration.

Overall, state spending from all sources of revenue would increase by \$100 million in fiscal year 2007. General fund spending would make up \$100 million of that amount.

Photo: Ken Beland, AP

NEARLY \$200 MILLION WOULD GO TO PUBLIC EDUCATION, HEALTH AND OTHER AREAS

Highlights of Gov. Linda Lingle's supplemental budget for fiscal year 2007:

- \$128.8 million for public education, including \$40 million each for school repairs and maintenance
- \$10.8 million in operating funds and \$25.4 million for capital improvement projects for the University of Hawaii, of which \$17.5 million are private funds for development of UH West Oahu
- \$87.5 million in operating funds for the Department of Human Services, primarily to maintain and expand medical and dental services for those in need
- \$85.1 million in operating funds and \$12.4 million for capital improvements for the Department of Health, primarily to provide services for developmentally disabled individuals and to meet the demand for medical services
- \$11.6 million in operating funds and \$2 million for capital improvements to preserve and protect natural and cultural assets, including \$11.6 million in improvements for state parks and \$10 million in improvements for small boat harbors, docks and facilities
- \$10.5 million in operating funds and \$10.2 million in capital improvements for state harbors, airports and highways, including \$10.2 million for major improvements at Honolulu airport
- \$10 million in operating funds and \$2.2 million for capital improvements to continue investment in public and affordable housing projects

Source: Office of the Governor




[Gov. Lingle wants to give taxpayers a \\$300M refund](#)

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, December 20, 2005

Lingle's plan: return \$300M to taxpayers

Proposed budget raises state spending by \$528M to \$9.6B

KEY ECONOMIC IMPACTS:
Gov. Linda Lingle said yesterday the state should use \$300 million from its budget surplus for tax relief, offsetting state income taxes on sales tax. Hawaii's strong economy and record growth are helping with the state's high cost of living.

The governor said she would not release the details of her proposal until her team of the state Council on Economic Forecasting in January, but stated it would include an increase in the standard income tax deduction and expanding income tax breaks for as many people would have to pay higher tax rates. Under the Republican governor, however, the state income tax rate would include a one-time rate cut.

Lingle has sought to reduce the standard deduction since the last

BUDGET DETAILS
Lingle's budget includes tax cutting of \$300 million. Highlights of the governor's new budget: \$2

The proposal, made as the announced her supplemental budget request to the state Legislature, will likely come with relief and support from the state's business and industry sectors. However, some have questioned the state's ability to sustain the budget surplus through the next year.

With projections for healthy economic growth and a resulting increase in state revenue, the

state governor in 1993, while her rejection of expanded tax breaks seemed to indicate she was pushing for the state income tax rate to be lowered. However, she has since made such an expansion.

SEE PAGE 1A

[Lingle's plan: return \\$300M to taxpayers](#)

Honolulu Advertiser, December 20, 2005

Lingle proposes tax relief

"Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle says her new budget will include \$300 million for tax relief, about half of the current state revenue surplus."

Pacific Business News, December 20, 2005

Honolulu
Advertiser,
December
19, 2005

[illegible]

Honolulu
Advertiser,
December
20, 2005

[illegible]

"The Economic Momentum Commission presented 35 recommendations to Gov. Linda Lingle Monday night at Washington Place."
Pacific Business News, December 20, 2005

Honolulu
Advertiser,
December
18, 2005

[illegible]

Midway is a national treasure

*By Peter Young,
Chairman of the
Department of Land and Natural Resources*

*Honolulu
Advertiser,
December
21, 2005*

PROTECTION ESSENTIAL

Midway is a national treasure

If you think you have been to a place with lots of birds, but have not yet been to Midway, then you cannot imagine what a lot is.

Albatross are everywhere, as far as the eye can see. Also known as grocery birds, these inhabitants of Midway Atoll cover nearly every piece of ground, nesting their eggs and filling the air with the sounds of clapping beaks and birdsong.

At dusk, the skies are filled with peregrine falcons to their burrows from a day of fishing. Large green sea turtles and monk seals haul out to bask in the sun on the beaches, while schools of fish dart through the clear ocean water.

While exploring the lagoon, a 40-pound otter gets up close and personal. Battering on the boat at sunset, a pod of spinner dolphins chase the boat to show off their speed and grace, leaping and spinning into the air.

If there were ever a place on Earth you wanted to see remain unchanged forever, this is it. You really have to see it to believe it.

This is just what Gov. Linda Lingie and a delegation of 18, including myself, did. We traveled to Midway with a remarkable

team of high-ranking U.S. officials to see firsthand the precious resources that make up the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and understand the necessity of preserving them.

The visit provided a window into the importance of preserving the fragile and unique nature of these islands as habitats and breeding grounds for a host of unique species.

In September, Gov. Lingie created the Northwestern Hawaiian Island Marine Refuge and set aside all state waters in a limited access, no-take marine protected area. This created the largest marine conservation area in the history of the state, protecting 1,000 square miles of coral reefs from the shoreline to 3 miles offshore.

Midway Atoll is the only island in the chain that is not part of the state but located in federal waters. Its fantastic wealth of natural resources and rich history from the late 1800s with guano mining, to the battle of Midway and now to today make it a national treasure.

Gov. Lingie has stated her desire to increase environmental preservation efforts and seek similar levels of environmental protection for the federal waters

surrounding the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands through a strong and lasting partnership among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program and the state of Hawaii.

While there has been a history of these agencies working together, the trip forged additional agreements on the creation of an overlay of protections that may allow for additional federal and international cooperation and co-management.

We agreed that the state of Hawaii should join in the federal environmental impact statement process as a cooperating agency to demonstrate the partnership we share with federal agencies. We also agreed that the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands should be designated as a World Heritage Site to ensure global protection.

There is more Gov. Lingie will be doing in the future, including strengthening our partnership with the federal government to preserve the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and reaffirming the state's position for a sanctuary.

PETER YOUNG | Chairman, Department of Land and Natural Resources

STATE CIVIL DEFENSE

Disaster planning in high gear

To do what is best for Hawaii, we must prepare for the worst. That sums up the very heart of the Civil Defense mission to save lives and protect property.

The horrific devastation left only a year ago in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami, as well as the misery visited upon America's Gulf Coast more recently by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, touched our deepest fears, and with good reason: Hawaii's people have experienced both killer tsunamis and hurricanes. And we will again.

Rather than wringing our hands, we should realize that these events have served to strengthen our resolve to take immediate action in mitigating the hazards we face, preparing our infrastructure, and developing our response strategies to accelerate recovery efforts whenever any disaster strikes, whether an act of nature, a pandemic flu or terrorism. This resolve has been evident in the leadership of Gov. Linda Lingie. Hawaii's lawmakers and county mayors with whom I have met to discuss strategies and to report on Hawaii's present state of preparedness.

The resolve to act was perhaps best exemplified on Dec. 9 when the governor outlined an emergency preparedness plan she called "the most important and comprehensive" set of initiatives since she took office.

The governor's initiatives address what Civil Defense has identified as our greatest concern: a shortage of shelter space.

That concern would encourage owners of buildings such as hotels to upgrade to shelter status; homeowners would be reimbursed a portion of the cost of installing wind-resistant devices; interest earned on the state's Hurricane Relief Fund would be used to upgrade and retrofit existing state buildings; and counties would be urged to upgrade their facilities. Some shelters would be tailored to the special needs of people with disabilities.

The governor's plan strengthens and extends initiatives already under way, while adding bold new steps, some of which reflect lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. Mindful that emergency response personnel were targets of attacks in New Orleans, especially by looters, Gov. Lingie is proposing tough laws in Hawaii regarding looting and attacks on emergency response and law enforcement personnel during an emergency.

The evacuation effort along the Gulf Coast was hampered by people reluctant to abandon pets which were not allowed in emergency shelters. In the aftermath of the storm, starving animals that were left behind and those that died in the storm created public health and safety problems. Gov. Lingie's plan calls for

developing specific shelters where owners can in fact take their pets.

Her package of emergency preparedness initiatives includes provisions for doubling the amount spent annually on upgrading Hawaii's siren warning system, stockpiling supplies (such as blankets, flashlights, bottled water and first-aid kits), improving emergency communications capabilities, and enhancing a new around-the-clock staffing and operations capability at the state Civil Defense Emergency Operating Center.

One of our most challenging jobs at Civil Defense is to get you, the public, to prepare for something you would rather not think about. Gov. Lingie's initiatives support hazard-awareness programs that reach from the public schools to care homes to hospitals.

While these initiatives appear tailor-made for dealing with hurricanes, they, in fact, strengthen our ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from a range of natural and man-made disasters. All of this will come with a price, but, in the words of Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, who serves the state both as adjutant general and director of Civil Defense, "The cost of preparedness is far less expensive than the alternative."

EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA | Vice Director of Civil Defense

Disaster planning in high gear

*By Edward T. Teixeira,
Vice Director of Civil Defense*

*Honolulu
Advertiser,
December
19, 2005*